

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

WILLIAM VERTEL HICKMAN,  
Plaintiff,  
v.  
KELLY SANTORO, *et al.*,  
Defendants.

No. 1:22-cv-00450-BAM (PC)  
ORDER DIRECTING CLERK OF COURT TO  
RANDOMLY ASSIGN DISTRICT JUDGE TO  
ACTION

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO  
DISMISS ACTION FOR FAILURE TO  
STATE A CLAIM

(ECF No. 8)

**FOURTEEN (14) DAY DEADLINE**

Plaintiff William Vertel Hickman (“Plaintiff”) is a state prisoner proceeding *pro se* and *in forma pauperis* in this civil rights action under 42 U.S.C. § 1983. The Court screened Plaintiff’s complaint and granted leave to amend. (ECF No. 7.) Plaintiff’s first amended complaint, filed on July 20, 2022, is currently before the Court for screening. (ECF No. 8.)

**I. Screening Requirement and Standard**

The Court is required to screen complaints brought by prisoners seeking relief against a governmental entity and/or against an officer or employee of a governmental entity. 28 U.S.C. § 1915A(a). Plaintiff’s complaint, or any portion thereof, is subject to dismissal if it is frivolous

1 or malicious, if it fails to state a claim upon which relief may be granted, or if it seeks monetary  
2 relief from a defendant who is immune from such relief. 28 U.S.C. §§ 1915A(b).

3 A complaint must contain “a short and plain statement of the claim showing that the  
4 pleader is entitled to relief . . . .” Fed. R. Civ. P. 8(a)(2). Detailed factual allegations are not  
5 required, but “[t]hreadbare recitals of the elements of a cause of action, supported by mere  
6 conclusory statements, do not suffice.” *Ashcroft v. Iqbal*, 556 U.S. 662, 678 (2009) (citing *Bell*  
7 *Atlantic Corp. v. Twombly*, 550 U.S. 544, 555 (2007)). While a plaintiff’s allegations are taken as  
8 true, courts “are not required to indulge unwarranted inferences.” *Doe I v. Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.*,  
9 572 F.3d 677, 681 (9th Cir. 2009) (internal quotation marks and citation omitted).

10 To survive screening, Plaintiff’s claims must be facially plausible, which requires  
11 sufficient factual detail to allow the Court to reasonably infer that each named defendant is liable  
12 for the misconduct alleged. *Iqbal*, 556 U.S. at 678 (quotation marks omitted); *Moss v. U.S. Secret*  
13 *Serv.*, 572 F.3d 962, 969 (9th Cir. 2009). The sheer possibility that a defendant acted unlawfully  
14 is not sufficient, and mere consistency with liability falls short of satisfying the plausibility  
15 standard. *Iqbal*, 556 U.S. at 678 (quotation marks omitted); *Moss*, 572 F.3d at 969.

16 **II. Plaintiff’s Allegations**

17 Plaintiff is currently housed at California Correctional Center at Lassen, in Susanville,  
18 California. Plaintiff alleges the events at issue occurred at North Kern State Prison. Plaintiff  
19 names as defendants: (1) Warden Kelly Santoro, (2) John Doe, medical staff, (3) John Doe 1,  
20 “officials,” (4) John Doe 2, Inspector General.

21 Plaintiff alleges as follows. In claim 1, Plaintiff alleges a cruel and unusual punishment  
22 violation from Covid 19.

23 “Due to the various Covid-19 viruses, I have been put at serious risk due to  
24 the exposure to my health and well-being not being allowed to proper social  
25 distancing (6 ft apart) because N.K.S.P. medical staff John Does as well as N.K.S.P  
26 officials John Does 1 and Warden Kelly Santoro neglecting thorough medical  
27 evaluations for myself when I was infected by the many Covid 19 viruses before  
integrating into main population, as well as, N.K.S.P. officials not properly testing,  
diagnosing or producing test results.”

1 In claim 2, Plaintiff claims deliberate indifference:

2  
3 “N.K.S.P. Officials John Doe 1 and Kelly Santoro, Warden unconstitutionally  
4 extended my period of incarceration and violated my Due Process rights of the 5<sup>th</sup>,  
5 6th, 8<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Amendments of the Constitution based on the Covid 19 protocol  
pertaining to social distancing and also the N.K.S.P. Official John Doe 1 deprived me  
the ability to quarantine myself which causes an unsafe environment.”

6 Plaintiff seeks compensatory damages.

7 **III. Discussion**

8 Plaintiff's complaint fails to comply with Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 8 and fails to  
9 state a cognizable claim.

10 **A. Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 8**

11 Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 8, a complaint must contain “a short and plain  
12 statement of the claim showing that the pleader is entitled to relief.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 8(a). As  
13 noted above, detailed factual allegations are not required, but “[t]hreadbare recitals of the  
14 elements of a cause of action, supported by mere conclusory statements, do not suffice.” *Iqbal*,  
15 556 U.S. at 678 (citation omitted). Plaintiff must set forth “sufficient factual matter, accepted as  
16 true, to ‘state a claim to relief that is plausible on its face.’” *Id.* (quoting *Twombly*, 550 U.S. at  
17 555). While factual allegations are accepted as true, legal conclusions are not. *Id.*; *see also*  
18 *Twombly*, 550 U.S. at 556–557; *Moss*, 572 F.3d at 969.

19 Plaintiff's complaint is short, but it lacks sufficient factual allegations to state a claim for  
20 relief. Plaintiff's complaint relies on generalized and conclusory allegations and lacks specific  
21 factual allegations about what happened, who was involved and what each person did to violate  
22 Plaintiff's Constitutional rights. Most of Plaintiff's allegations are vague and conclusory  
23 statements that do not contain enough factual details to permit the Court to draw the reasonable  
24 inference that any named Defendant is liable for the misconduct alleged. *Iqbal*, 556 U.S. at 678.  
25 Plaintiff may not simply recite the elements of various causes of action without supporting factual  
26 allegations, or state in a conclusory fashion that Plaintiff's rights were violated. Despite being  
27 provided the relevant pleading standards, Plaintiff fails to include factual allegations identifying  
28 what happened, which Defendant was involved, and how the actions or inactions of each

1 Defendant violated Plaintiff's rights. Plaintiff has been unable to cure this deficiency.

2           **B.       Linkage**

3           The Civil Rights Act under which this action was filed provides:

4           Every person who, under color of [state law] . . . subjects, or causes to be  
5           subjected, any citizen of the United States . . . to the deprivation of any rights,  
6           privileges, or immunities secured by the Constitution . . . shall be liable to the  
7           party injured in an action at law, suit in equity, or other proper proceeding for  
8           redress.

9           42 U.S.C. § 1983. The statute plainly requires that there be an actual connection or link between  
10          the actions of the defendants and the deprivation alleged to have been suffered by Plaintiff. *See*  
11          *Monell v. Dep't of Soc. Servs.*, 436 U.S. 658 (1978); *Rizzo v. Goode*, 423 U.S. 362 (1976). The  
12          Ninth Circuit has held that “[a] person ‘subjects another to the deprivation of a constitutional  
13          right, within the meaning of section 1983, if he does an affirmative act, participates in another’s  
14          affirmative acts or omits to perform an act which he is legally required to do that causes the  
15          deprivation of which complaint is made.” *Johnson v. Duffy*, 588 F.2d 740, 743 (9th Cir. 1978).

16          Plaintiff fails to link any named defendant to any claims in his complaint. Plaintiff names  
17          each defendant, but does not allege what each Defendant did or did not do which violated his  
18          rights. Plaintiff was informed that to state a claim for relief under section 1983, Plaintiff must  
19          link each named individual defendant with some affirmative act or omission that demonstrates a  
20          violation of Plaintiff's federal rights. Conclusory allegations are insufficient to link any named  
21          Defendant to any actions or omissions that may have violated Plaintiff's rights.

22           **C.       Supervisor Liability**

23          Insofar as Plaintiff is attempting to sue Defendants Santoro, or any other defendant, based  
24          solely upon his supervisory role, he may not do so. Liability may not be imposed on supervisory  
25          personnel for the actions or omissions of their subordinates under the theory of respondeat  
26          superior. *Iqbal*, 556 U.S. at 676–77; *Simmons v. Navajo Cty., Ariz.*, 609 F.3d 1011, 1020–21 (9th  
27          Cir. 2010); *Ewing v. City of Stockton*, 588 F.3d 1218, 1235 (9th Cir. 2009); *Jones v. Williams*,  
28          297 F.3d 930, 934 (9th Cir. 2002).

29          Supervisors may be held liable only if they “participated in or directed the violations, or  
30          knew of the violations and failed to act to prevent them.” *Taylor v. List*, 880 F.2d 1040, 1045 (9th

1 Cir. 1989); *accord Starr v. Baca*, 652 F.3d 1202, 1205–06 (9th Cir. 2011); *Corales v. Bennett*,  
2 567 F.3d 554, 570 (9th Cir. 2009). “The requisite causal connection may be established when an  
3 official sets in motion a ‘series of acts by others which the actor knows or reasonably should  
4 know would cause others to inflict’ constitutional harms.” *Corales v. Bennett*, 567 F.3d at 570.  
5 Supervisory liability may also exist without any personal participation if the official implemented  
6 “a policy so deficient that the policy itself is a repudiation of the constitutional rights and is the  
7 moving force of the constitutional violation.” *Redman v. Cty. of San Diego*, 942 F.2d 1435, 1446  
8 (9th Cir. 1991) (citations and quotations marks omitted), abrogated on other grounds by *Farmer*  
9 *v. Brennan*, 511 U.S. 825 (1970).

10 To prove liability for an action or policy, the plaintiff “must...demonstrate that his  
11 deprivation resulted from an official policy or custom established by a...policymaker possessed  
12 with final authority to establish that policy.” *Waggy v. Spokane County Washington*, 594 F.3d  
13 707, 713 (9th Cir.2010). When a defendant holds a supervisory position, the causal link between  
14 such defendant and the claimed constitutional violation must be specifically alleged. See *Fayle v.*  
15 *Stapley*, 607 F.2d 858, 862 (9th Cir. 1979); *Mosher v. Saalfeld*, 589 F.2d 438, 441 (9th Cir.  
16 1978). Vague and conclusory allegations concerning the involvement of supervisory personnel in  
17 civil rights violations are not sufficient. *See Ivey v. Board of Regents*, 673 F.2d 266, 268 (9th Cir.  
18 1982).

19 Plaintiff fails to allege that Defendant Santoro, or any defendant, participated in or  
20 directed the violations, or knew of the violations and failed to act to prevent them. Plaintiff’s  
21 conclusory allegations that are insufficient. Plaintiff may not sue an official on the theory that the  
22 official is liable for the unconstitutional conduct of his or her subordinates. *Iqbal*, 556 U.S. at 679.  
23 In other words, wardens are not liable based solely on their role in supervising prisons. Plaintiff  
24 has failed to allege the causal link between any defendant and the claimed constitutional violation  
25 which must be specifically alleged. Plaintiff does not make a sufficient showing of any personal  
26 participation, direction, or knowledge on any defendant’s part regarding any other prison  
27 officials’ actions. Plaintiff has again failed to allege that these defendants personally participated  
28 in any alleged deprivations.

1           **D.     Eighth Amendment**2           **1.     Medical Care**

3           A prisoner's claim of inadequate medical care constitutes cruel and unusual punishment in  
 4 violation of the Eighth Amendment where the mistreatment rises to the level of "deliberate  
 5 indifference to serious medical needs." *Jett v. Penner*, 439 F.3d 1091, 1096 (9th Cir. 2006)  
 6 (quoting *Estelle v. Gamble*, 429 U.S. 97, 104 (1976)). The two-part test for deliberate  
 7 indifference requires Plaintiff to show (1) "a 'serious medical need' by demonstrating that failure  
 8 to treat a prisoner's condition could result in further significant injury or the 'unnecessary and  
 9 wanton infliction of pain,'" and (2) "the defendant's response to the need was deliberately  
 10 indifferent." *Jett*, 439 F.3d at 1096.

11           A defendant does not act in a deliberately indifferent manner unless the defendant "knows  
 12 of and disregards an excessive risk to inmate health or safety." *Farmer v. Brennan*, 511 U.S. 825,  
 13 837 (1994). "Deliberate indifference is a high legal standard," *Simmons v. Navajo Cty. Ariz.*, 609  
 14 F.3d 1011, 1019 (9th Cir. 2010); *Toguchi v. Chung*, 391 F.3d 1051, 1060 (9th Cir. 2004), and is  
 15 shown where there was "a purposeful act or failure to respond to a prisoner's pain or possible  
 16 medical need" and the indifference caused harm. *Jett*, 439 F.3d at 1096. In applying this  
 17 standard, the Ninth Circuit has held that before it can be said that a prisoner's civil rights have  
 18 been abridged, "the indifference to his medical needs must be substantial. Mere 'indifference,'  
 19 'negligence,' or 'medical malpractice' will not support this cause of action." *Broughton v. Cutter*  
 20 *Labs.*, 622 F.2d 458, 460 (9th Cir. 1980) (citing *Estelle*, 429 U.S. at 105–06). Even gross  
 21 negligence is insufficient to establish deliberate indifference to serious medical needs. *See Wood*  
 22 *v. Housewright*, 900 F.2d 1332, 1334 (9th Cir. 1990).

23           Plaintiff may be alleging that prison staff did not take measures to prevent him from  
 24 contracting COVID-19, he does not allege what kind of treatment, if any, he received after he  
 25 contracted COVID-19. Plaintiff alleges only that he "was infected by the many Covid 19 viruses  
 26 before integrating into main population, as well as N.K.S.P. officials not properly testing,  
 27 diagnosing or producing test results." However, Plaintiff fails to allege any factual support that  
 28 any defendant was deliberately indifferent to his medical needs once he contracted Covid 19.

1 Furthermore, as noted above, Plaintiff has failed to link any individual defendant to the events  
 2 alleged. Despite being provided the relevant pleading standards, Plaintiff has been unable to cure  
 3 this deficiency.

4 **2. Conditions of Confinement**

5 Plaintiff may be attempting to bring a conditions of confinement claim regarding the  
 6 spread of COVID-19 due to lack of social distancing and inability to quarantine.

7 Conditions of confinement may, consistent with the Constitution, be restrictive and harsh.  
 8 *See Rhodes v. Chapman*, 452 U.S. 337, 347 (1981); *Morgan v. Morgensen*, 465 F.3d 1041, 1045  
 9 (9th Cir. 2006); *Osolinski v. Kane*, 92 F.3d 934, 937 (9th Cir. 1996); *Jordan v. Gardner*, 986 F.2d  
 10 1521, 1531 (9th Cir. 1993) (en banc). Prison officials must, however, provide prisoners with  
 11 “food, clothing, shelter, sanitation, medical care, and personal safety.” *Toussaint v. McCarthy*,  
 12 801 F.2d 1080, 1107 (9th Cir. 1986), abrogated in part on other grounds by *Sandin v. Connor*,  
 13 515 U.S. 472 (1995); *see also Johnson v. Lewis*, 217 F.3d 726, 731 (9th Cir. 2000); *Hoptowit v.*  
 14 *Ray*, 682 F.2d 1237, 1246 (9th Cir. 1982); *Wright v. Rushen*, 642 F.2d 1129, 1132-33 (9th Cir.  
 15 1981).

16 Two requirements must be met to show an Eighth Amendment violation. *Farmer*, 511  
 17 U.S. at 834. “First, the deprivation must be, objectively, sufficiently serious.” *Id.* (internal  
 18 quotation marks and citation omitted). Second, “prison officials must have a sufficiently culpable  
 19 state of mind,” which for conditions of confinement claims, “is one of deliberate indifference.”  
*Id.* (internal quotation marks and citation omitted). Prison officials act with deliberate  
 20 indifference when they know of and disregard an excessive risk to inmate health or safety. *Id.* at  
 21 837. The circumstances, nature, and duration of the deprivations are critical in determining  
 22 whether the conditions complained of are grave enough to form the basis of a viable Eighth  
 23 Amendment claim. *Johnson v. Lewis*, 217 F.3d 726, 731 (9th Cir. 2006). Mere negligence on the  
 24 part of a prison official is not sufficient to establish liability, but rather, the official’s conduct  
 25 must have been wanton. *Farmer*, 511 U.S. at 835; *Frost v. Agnos*, 152 F.3d 1124, 1128 (9th Cir.  
 26 1998).

27 Extreme deprivations are required to make out a conditions of confinement claim, and  
 28

1 only those deprivations denying the minimal civilized measure of life's necessities are  
2 sufficiently grave to form the basis of an Eighth Amendment violation. *Farmer*, 511 U.S. at 834;  
3 *Hudson v. McMillian*, 503 U.S. 1, 9 (1992). Second, the prison official must "know[ ] of and  
4 disregard[ ] an excessive risk to inmate health or safety. . . ." *Farmer*, 511 U.S. at 837. Thus, a  
5 prison official may be held liable under the Eighth Amendment for denying humane conditions of  
6 confinement only if he knows that inmates face a substantial risk of harm and disregards that risk  
7 by failing to take reasonable measures to abate it. *Id.* at 837–45.

8 COVID-19 poses a substantial risk of serious harm. *See Plata v. Newsom*, 445 F. Supp.  
9 3d 557, 559 (N.D. Cal. Apr. 17, 2020) ("[N]o one questions that [COVID-19] poses a substantial  
10 risk of serious harm" to prisoners.). However, in order to state a cognizable Eighth Amendment  
11 claim, Plaintiff must provide more than generalized allegations that the "medical staff" and  
12 "officials" have not done enough regarding overcrowding or prison movement or housing  
13 assignment to control the spread. *See Booth v. Newsom*, No. 2:20-cv-1562 AC P, 2020 WL  
14 6741730, at \*3 (E.D. Cal. Nov. 17, 2020); *see Blackwell v. Covello*, No. 2:20-CV-1755 DB P,  
15 2021 WL 915670, at \*3 (E.D. Cal. Mar. 10, 2021) (failure to state a claim against warden for  
16 failure to adequately control the spread of COVID-19 in the prison); *Benitez v. Sierra  
17 Conservation Ctr., Warden*, No. 1:21-CV-00370 BAM (PC), 2021 WL 4077960, at \*5 (E.D. Cal.  
18 Sept. 8, 2021), report and recommendation adopted, No. 1:21-CV-00370 NONE BAM (PC),  
19 2021 WL 4593841 (E.D. Cal. Oct. 6, 2021) (Failed to state a claim on allegations that  
20 overcrowding/lack of distance between inmates has exacerbated the conditions leading to  
21 transmission of COVID. Plaintiff alleges that there is no way to socially distance, among other  
22 conditions.); *Sanford v. Eaton*, No. 1:20-CV-00792 JLT BAM PC, 2022 WL 1308193, at \*8  
23 (E.D. Cal. May 2, 2022), report and recommendation adopted, No. 1:20-CV-00792 JLT  
24 BAM(PC), 2022 WL 2181782 (E.D. Cal. June 16, 2022) (in order to state a cognizable Eighth  
25 Amendment claim against the warden, associate wardens and any other defendants named,  
26 Plaintiff must provide more than generalized allegations that the warden, associate wardens and  
27 other defendants have not done enough regarding overcrowding to control the spread.);  
28 *Fernandez v. Gamboa*, No. 21-CV-01748 JLT BAM (PC), 2022 WL 658590, at \*8 (E.D. Cal.

1 Mar. 4, 2022) (the actions of Defendants may not have been effective or a “perfect response,” but  
2 the numerous efforts undertaken demonstrate that Defendants were engaged in active conduct to  
3 manage the spread of the virus.)

4 The Court notes that overcrowding, by itself, is not a constitutional violation. *Doty v.*  
5 *County of Lassen*, 37 F.3d 540, 545 n.1 (9th Cir. 1994); *Hoptowit v. Ray*, 682 F.2d at 1248–49  
6 (noting that overcrowding itself not Eighth Amendment violation but can lead to specific effects  
7 that might violate Constitution), abrogated in part on other grounds by *Sandin v. Conner*, 515  
8 U.S. 472 (1995); *see Balla v. Idaho State Bd. of Corr.*, 869 F.2d 461, 471 (9th Cir. 1989)  
9 (allegations of prison overcrowding alone are insufficient to state a claim under the Eighth  
10 Amendment.); *see also Rhodes v. Chapman*, 452 U.S. at 348–49 (double-celling of inmates by  
11 itself does not inflict unnecessary or wanton pain or constitute grossly disproportionate  
12 punishment in violation of Eighth Amendment). An overcrowding claim is cognizable only if the  
13 plaintiff alleges that crowding has caused an increase in violence, has reduced the provision of  
14 other constitutionally required services, or has reached a level rendering the institution no longer  
15 fit for human habitation. *See Balla*, 869 F.2d at 471; *see, e.g., Akao v. Shimoda*, 832 F.2d 119,  
16 120 (9th Cir. 1987) (per curiam) (as amended) (reversing district court’s dismissal of claim that  
17 overcrowding caused increased stress, tension, and communicable disease among inmate  
18 population); *Toussaint v. Yockey*, 722 F.2d 1490, 1492 (9th Cir. 1984) (affirming that Eighth  
19 Amendment violation may occur as result of overcrowded prison conditions causing increased  
20 violence, tension, and psychiatric problems).

21 The transmissibility of the COVID-19 virus in conjunction with Plaintiff’s living  
22 conditions, which he alleges, liberally construed, involved the placement of inmates infected with  
23 COVID-19 with inmates who tested negative for COVID-19, are sufficient to satisfy the objective  
24 prong, i.e., that Plaintiff was “incarcerated under conditions posing a substantial risk of serious  
25 harm.” The pertinent question in determining whether Plaintiff states a claim is whether  
26 defendants’ actions demonstrated deliberate indifference to that risk of harm. The key inquiry is  
27 not whether the defendants perfectly responded, complied with every CDC guideline, or whether  
28 their efforts ultimately averted the risk; instead, the key inquiry is whether they “responded

1 reasonably to the risk.” *See Stevens v. Carr*, No. 20-C-1735, 2021 WL 39542, at \*4 (E.D. Wis.  
 2 Jan. 5, 2021); *accord Benitez, v. Sierra Conservation Center*, 1:21-CV-00370 BAM (PC), 2021  
 3 WL 4077960, at \*5 (E.D. Cal. Sept. 8, 2021) (same); *Sanford v. Eaton*, No. 1:20-CV-00792 JLT  
 4 BAM PC, 2022 WL 1308193, at \*8 (E.D. Cal. May 2, 2022) (same); *Fernandez v. Gamboa*, No.  
 5 21-CV-01748 JLT BAM (PC), 2022 WL 658590, at \*8 (E.D. Cal. Mar. 4, 2022) (same).

6 Plaintiff finds fault with how John Doe “officials” and “medical staff” responded.  
 7 Plaintiff does not adequately allege who and how these defendants were deliberately indifferent to  
 8 the spread of the disease. As Plaintiff was previously instructed, Plaintiff must allege factual  
 9 support to show that any purported defendant disregarded a known risk or failed to take any steps  
 10 to address the risk. *Wilson*, 961 F.3d at 843 (6th Cir. 2020); *Sanford v. Eaton*, No. 1:20-CV-  
 11 00792 BAM (PC), 2021 WL 3021447, at \*8 (E.D. Cal. July 16, 2021) (failure to state a claim  
 12 where defendants were trying “alternatives” to manage the situation.); *Benitez, v. Sierra*  
 13 *Conservation Center*, 1:21-CV-00370 BAM (PC), 2021 WL 4077960, at \*5 (E.D. Cal. Sept. 8,  
 14 2021) (same).

15 As stated above, Plaintiff failed to link named defendants and provide factual support of  
 16 what each defendant did or did not do which allegedly violated Plaintiff’s constitutional rights.  
 17 Plaintiff has been unable to cure this deficiency.

18 **E. Habeas Corpus – Early Release**

19 Plaintiff may be seeking his release. (ECF No. 8, p. 4 (defendants “unconstitutionally  
 20 extended my period of incarceration.”))

21 To the extent that Plaintiff is attempting to challenge the validity of his conviction and his  
 22 incarceration, the exclusive method for asserting that challenge is by filing a petition for writ of  
 23 habeas corpus. It has long been established that state prisoners cannot challenge the fact or  
 24 duration of their confinement in a section 1983 action, and that their sole remedy lies in habeas  
 25 corpus relief. *Wilkinson v. Dotson*, 544 U.S. 74, 78 (2005) (“[A] prisoner in state custody cannot  
 26 use a § 1983 action to challenge the fact or duration of his confinement. He must seek federal  
 27 habeas corpus relief (or appropriate state relief) instead.”). The Supreme Court has never held  
 28

1 there is a constitutional right to early release from a term of imprisonment. *See Heck v.*  
2 *Humphrey*, 512 U.S. 477 (1994) (in order to state a claim for damages for an allegedly  
3 unconstitutional conviction or term of imprisonment, or for other harm caused by actions whose  
4 unlawfulness would render a conviction or sentence invalid, a plaintiff asserting a violation of 42  
5 U.S.C. § 1983 must prove that the conviction or sentence has been reversed or declared invalid.);  
6 *see Preiser v. Rodriguez*, 411 U.S. 475, 500 (1973) (“[W]hen a state prisoner is challenging the  
7 very fact or duration of his physical imprisonment, and the relief he seeks is a determination that  
8 he is entitled to immediate release or a speedier release from that imprisonment, his sole federal  
9 remedy is a writ of habeas corpus.”).

10  
11 **IV. Conclusion and Recommendation**

12 For the reasons discussed, the Court finds that Plaintiff fails to comply with Federal Rule  
13 of Civil Procedure 8 and fails to state a cognizable claim for relief. Despite being provided with  
14 the relevant legal standards, Plaintiff has been unable to cure the deficiencies in his complaint.  
15 Further leave to amend is not warranted. *Lopez v. Smith*, 203 F.3d 1122, 1130 (9th Cir. 2000).

16 Accordingly, the Clerk of the Court is HEREBY DIRECTED to randomly assign a  
17 District Judge to this action.

18 Furthermore, IT IS HEREBY RECOMMENDED that this action be dismissed for failure  
19 to state a cognizable claim upon which relief may be granted.

20 These Findings and Recommendation will be submitted to the United States District Judge  
21 assigned to the case, pursuant to the provisions of Title 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1). Within **fourteen**  
22 **(14) days** after being served with these Findings and Recommendation, Plaintiff may file written  
23 objections with the Court. The document should be captioned “Objections to Magistrate Judge’s  
24 Findings and Recommendation.” Plaintiff is advised that failure to file objections within the  
25  
26  
27  
28

///

///

///

///

1 specified time may result in the waiver of the “right to challenge the magistrate’s factual  
2 findings” on appeal. *Wilkerson v. Wheeler*, 772 F.3d 834, 839 (9th Cir. 2014) (citing *Baxter v.*  
3 *Sullivan*, 923 F.2d 1391, 1394 (9th Cir. 1991)).

4

5 IT IS SO ORDERED.

6

Dated: July 25, 2022

/s/ *Barbara A. McAuliffe*

7 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28